

Message Text

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TO USUN NEW YORK 537

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TAGS: PLOS, IV

SUB: LAW OF THE SEA: FADIGA DEFINES IVORY COAST (AND
AFRICAN POSITION

REF: ABIDJAN 2507

1. AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN MARCH 15 FRATERNITE MATIN,
MINISTER OF MARINE AFFAIRS LAMINE FADIGA, HEAD OF IVORY COAST
DELEGATION TO LOS (AND INCLUMBENT PRESEINDE OF AFRICAN GROUP
OF LOS ACCORDING TO ARTICLE), DEFINED POSITION OF IVORY
COAST AND AFRICAN GROUP IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS.

2. FADIGA NOTED THAT MISSION OF IVORY COAST DELEGATION WOULD
BE TO DEFEND THE COMMON AFRICAN POSITION ON LOS, A POSITON
WHICH FLOWS FROM THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE MOGADISCIO
DECLARATION AS WELL AS TEXTS ON WHICH SOME PROGRESS AND UNITY
WERE ACHIEVED DURING THE GENEVA LOS SESSION OF 1975. FADIGA STSTED
THAT THERE ARE TWO ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES WHICH CHAREACTERIZE THE
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COMMON AFRICAN POSITION, AS FOLLOWS:

-. THE CONCEPT OF AN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN TO THE CURRENT LOS NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN THE CONCEPT OF THE 200-MILE ZONE MEASURED FROM THE COAST IN WHICH ZONE THE RIPARIAN STATE EXERCISES EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS BOTH WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTROL, EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF ALL ITS RESOURCES, BIOLOGICAL AND NON-BIOLOGICAL, WHICH MAY BE FOUND ON OR UNDER THE SURFACE OF THE WATER, ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, OR BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE DEEP SEA BED, AS WELL AS EXERCISING EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OVER THE CONTROL OF POLLUTION AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. AFRICAN COASTAL STATES ARE IN AGREEMENT IN RECOGNIZING THAT NEIGHBORING LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES HAVE THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE FOR THE PURPOSES OF EXPLOITATION.

B. THE CONCEPT OF "HIGH SEAS" OR THE INTERNATIONAL ZONE. AT THE INSTANCE OF THE AFRICAN GROUP, IVORY COAST FIRMLY SUPPORTS THE POSITION THAT THE USE OF THE HIGH SEAS MUST BE PLACED UNDER THE CONTROL OF AN INTERNATIONAL BODY WHICH WOULD HAVE A FULLY JURIDICAL NATURE AND BE ENDOWED WITH CONSIDERABLE AND EXTENSIVE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

3. FADIGA CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE HOPED THE LOS CONFERENCE WOULD COME TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION BY PRESENTING FOR SIGNATURE TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD A GENERAL CONVENTION COVERING ALL THE IMPORTANT LOS ISSUES AND LEADING TO THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW AND MORE JUST ORDER ON THE SEAS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE DESIRES OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

4. COMMENT: NEWSPAPER ARTICLES STATES FADIGA NOT GOING TO NEW YORK UNTIL BEGINNING OF MAY BUT THIS BELIEVED TO BE AN ERROR AS EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM FADIGA'S OFFICE THAT HE IS LEAVING ABIDJAN AROUND MARCH 23. AS REPORTED REFTEL, AMBASSADOR PLANS CALL OF FADIGA PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE SMITH

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